# QUESTIONS WHICH PROVOKE DISCUSSION AMONG WRITERS

## WRITERS ARE OPPOSING LITERARY CENSORSHIP

Attempted Suppression of Theodore Dreiser's Work Brings Him Many Defenders English Writers

Cable Sympathy.

The question of literary consorship has been brought before the Authors League of America through the attempted suppression of Mr. Theodore Dreiser's book, "The Gentus," by the New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. This body, self-constituted and supported by private contributions, has demanded not only that publication be suspended but that the plates and all existing copies be diestroyred.

Although Mr. Dreiser is not a member of the league, it acceded to the request of his publishers that he be permitted to present his case before the executive committee of that body.

It was the sense of the committee that

"The Genius" was not subject to con-demnation by the vice society, that it was neither "lewd, licentious nor obscene," that the test applied in such cases was narrow and unfair, and that unless modified it would prevent the sale of nany classics and of much of the serious work which is now being offered, and that the Authors League take such action as may be possible to prevent the sup-pression of the work complained of. Mr. Dreiser contended that in the ten

nonths the book had been out not a single criticism had been produced condemning it as "lewd and obscene," as the vice so-ciety alleges. "I look on this interference with myself or any other serious writer as an outrage," said Mr. Dreiser. and I fear for the ultimate intelligence of America. A band of wasplike cen-sors has appeared and is attempting to put the quietus on our literature, which but the quietts on our literature, which is at least showing signs of breaking the bonds of Puritanism under which it has so long struggled in vain. Poe, Hawthorne, Whitman and Thoreau have in turn been the butt and gibe of unintelligent persons, until by now we are well nigh the laughing stock of the world. world. When will we lay aside the swaddling clothes forced on us by the antiquated theories of ignorant moralists and their unconcated followers, and stand up free thinking men and women?

"To me this interference by the vice society with serious letters is the worst and most corrupting form of oppression conceivable to the human mind, plumb-ing as it does the depths of ignorance, and intolerance and checking initiative and inspiration at its source. Life, if it is anything at all, is a thing to be ob-served, studied, interpreted. We do not know too much about it; in fact, as yet we know hardly anything of it. It is our great realm of discovery. The ar-

PRICES

A Selection from an Important List

Ask to see these at your bookseller's -or, if you haven't time for that, send for our complete "Yall List" 37 bases, giving fuller descriptions.

War, Peace and the Future By El en Key

Author of "Love and Marriage," "The Century of the Child," etc. A consideration of Na-tionalism and Internationalism, and of the re-

Addresses of Charles Evans Hughes Introduction by Jacob Gould Schurman

No voter can neglect this

the United States, as well

as emphasizing the di-

of the candidate's politi-**English Influence** On the United States

By W. Cunningham, D. D., F. B. A.

vergences of institutions as developed in the old planted in the New Reminiscences of a **War-Time Statesman** 

and Diplomat, 1830-1915 By Freder ck W. Seward The interesting and distinguished career of the

son of Lincoln's great secretary, and himself Assistant Secretary of State under Lincoln, Johnson, and Hayes. Recollections of a Happy

Life By Elizabeth Cristophers Hobson

full and entertaining

life, edited by Louisa Lee Schuyler. Includes the account of a trip around the Horn in the old clip-per ship days. Fiction

Desmond's Daughter By Maud Diver

A vivid story of Anglo-Indian life by the author of "Captain Desmond, V. C.," "The Great Amulet,"

"Candles In the Wind," The Breath of

the Dragon By A. H. Fitch

love story of modern China, picturing the legapress Dowager's Palace and at the Court of the King of Beggars.

The More Excellent Way

By Cyrus Townsend Brady Modern Society and the Divorce Question, the

rento, Bermuda, and LL 800 . ILEES.

G. P. Putnam's Sons

list, if left to himself, may be safely rusted to observe, synchronize and articulate human knowledge in the most palatable and delightful form. There is no compulsion on any one to read. One must pay to do so. Furthermore, one must have taste and a brain and heart to understand. With all these safeguards and a double score of capable critics in every land to praise or blame, what real need is there for a censor, far less fitted than any of the working critics, to indulge his personal predilection and opposition and to appeal to the couris if disagreed with. The publisher of Mr. Gilbert Cannon's latest novel—a work that probably has no greater defect than being intelligent and true—is warned before he brings it out that he will be prosecuted. Similarly Mr. Przybyszewski's 'Homo Saplens' is at once seized and its publisher frightened lst. if left to himself, may be safely Przysyszewski's Homo Sapiens is at once seized and its publisher frightened into withdrawing it. This also was true of 'Hagar Revelly' as well as of the eminent August Forel's 'The Sexual

### The West Indicts Also.

"The Gentus" has also been attacked by the Western Society for the Suppres-sion of Vice. Endeavors are being mat by members of the society to suppress the book and prohibit the mailing of the volunse in this country and in England F. L. Rowe, secretary of the society has addressed communications to pos office inspectors in English speaking countries calling attention to certain passages in the book. Mr. Rowe said re-

"Rev. John Herget of Ninth Street Baptist Church became acquainted with the book when he was called to a telephone by an unidentified person who complained. We immediately procured pane by an unidentified person who complained. We immediately procured a copy of the present issue and find it is filled with obscenity and blasphemy. We have succeeded in having it removed from practically every book store in the

English Writers Cable Sympathy.

John Lane, 116 West Thirty-second street;
Convey to Dreiser and Authors
League following message: We regard "The Genius" as a work of high literary merit and sympathize with the Author League of America in their protest spatios its summers of the second of the street of the second against its suppression.

WILLIAM J. LOCKE, E. TEMPLE THURSTON, H. G. WELLS, 9.23 P. M. Sept. 13, 1916.

ARNOLD BENNETT.

By SAMUEL MERWIN, And The Honey Bee

THE

TRUFFLERS

A Novel

mole Bennett is to the Five Towns -loving aut imprejudiced biographer The Trufflers- the meaning of the

I have not read Mr. Dreiser's book because the public does not know any "The Genius," but I am inclined to the better, and as the first rate authors who belief that it deserves a no worse fatu at stick to their original gues are numeri-



COSMO HAMILTON
AUTHOR OF "THE SINS OF
THE FATHERS" (LITTLE BROWN



he hands of a discriminating public than hat accorded Mr. Thackeray's "Vanity Fair" or many of Zola's masterpieces. Sensorship of books is not inadvisable, but it should not be conducted by narrow minded, self-appointed critics. The mortis of the people usinally adjust them done have not read any of those under discussion, but it is safe to say that tiey discussion, but it is safe to say that tiey do no harm. A long novel pounding days them selves. We are not altogether bad. As a matter of fact, I believe the American of the conducted in the vorld. An unclean, purposelves book or lay can obtain no substantial footing in his country. A book with a purpose will find its proper level, and all the cent of the conducted by the intelligently curious will read of the world cannot deprive it of a place. And now that the Society for he Suppression of Vice has tried to put the hold in the country. Will be intelligently curious will read on the world cannot deprive it of a place. And now that the Society for he Suppression of Vice has tried to put the hold in the country. Will be intelligently curious will read on the world cannot deprive it of a place. And now that the Society for he Suppression of Vice has tried to put the hold in the country. Will be intelligently curious bear the fact of the suppression of Vice has tried to put the solution of the suppression of Vice has tried to put the solution of the suppression of Vice has tried to put the solution of the suppression of Vice has tried to put the solution of the suppression of Vice has tried to put the solution of the suppression of Vice has tried to put the solution of the suppression of the

GEORGE BARR MICHTCHEON



in the books that have good all of the deep before it.

By GERTHUDE ATHENTON.
What American literature and the country in general needs is not more brains. In time per age we shall have a company the parties of the constraint of the same time outlington the interior of the constraint of the same time outlington the hower levels. As it is, the varies desired and at the same time outlined to the intelligence of the better class of readers and at the same time outlined to the intelligence of the better class of readers and at the same time of the constraint of the parties of a self-ampointed individuals prevailed in the parties of a self-ampointed individuals prevailed in the parties of a self-ampointed individuals in the practice of a self-am mechanical and imitative will his work be and the more a manager knows about the theatre the more hopelessly behind A most serious charge against the fix ins and outs, as the tash escaped by the desires of his audience is he likely to be The American and English theatenfed by William A. Brady. Which brought forth the following comment in the editorial pages of The Sun:

"Mr. Brady sadly asserts that the American drams is suffering from infantle paralysis. This pessimistic accusation is the outcome of Mr. Brady's professional connection with countless clays in the doctors, or both compliance in the shady specifical epochs of the world. If the lance in his slep window to sell, if he can, and it is he who is quite untitle paralysis. This pessimistic accusation is the outcome of Mr. Brady's professional connection with countless clays are the doctors, or both compliance in the shader of what the public that are unworthy of production and a few that reach the boards. They are the work, both those which are rejected to be brighter."

The American and English the the desires of his audience is he likely to be. The American and English the attempted by those who are unit for intended by the playwright. It should not be attempted by those are unit for intended by those who are unit for intended by the playwright. It should not be attempted by those are unit for intended by the playwright in the p

Playwright Cobb Is Modest.

Briefly and in a word I feel that I am not qualified to pass opinion on the state of the American drama. Mr. Brady thinks it is suffering from infantile paralysis. Sometimes it seems to be t the last stages of sentle debitry; then again it bears a healthy and a robust-

But-as I say, I do not feel qualified to pass upon the condition of the draina-for I don't knew anything about the subject. If you think I do, you have only to read the criticisms of some of our leading pluy reviewers regarding two plays in the writing of which I was

their melancholy way to the storehouse, and simming it all up I've long ago come to the conclusion that the combined intellect back of it all is very sick or very far away.

"Not that there aren't some good plays and fine playwrights who bring to their craft an expert knowledge of life and the thestre. I've seen some good ones, and flatter myself that I've produced some good ones. But taking the distribution of the time) hearing with my car then ones, and flatter myself that I've produced some good ones. But taking the output by and large I've come to the conclusion that more children under the time) hearing of friends — playseers, four years write plays than such their thumbs and that one of the lirst street. four years write plays than such their thumbs and that one of the first symptoms of smillty is a tendency to write drivel for the stage.

"This is not meant to be discouraging one; of other men, many), children and If a man or woman feels qualified to others—in praise, blame, simple chattering the stage. "This is not meant to be discouraging.
If a man or woman feels qualified to others—in praise, blame, simple chatwrite a play, let him or her 'go to it' thus the bad playwrights, like the poor, are always with us."

This is not meant to be discouraging others—in praise, blame, simple chat-related to other simple chat-related theing, or having been, asked), that in competency in playwriting has not up to the present moment of time-and what Charles Dillingham, producer of I may ask, other moment of time—and what, mighty spectacles, would not comment on Mr. Brady's pessimistic charge against the American drama of to-day, that his attitude may be inferred from the fact that no manuscripts are opened. I have not, unless in my sleep or other in the Dillingham offices, but are resembled to moment of time—and what, the present moment of time is there—has not, I repeat the other—has not, I repeat the utter height and repeat the utter height and repeat the present moment of time—and what, the present moment of time is there—has not a like the utter height and repeat the present moment of time is there—has not a like the utter height and repeat the utter height a

SOME OF LITTLE, BROWN & CO.'S BOOKS

FICTION THE WOMAN GIVES

By OWEN JOHNSON. The story of the

Pictures by Chairly. 31 40 m

regeneration of a man, by the author. "The Salamander."

THE WORN DOORSTEP

THE THREE THINGS

THE WHALE and the

THE HERITAGE

of the SIOUX

CLOVER AND

**BLUE GRASS** 

GRASSHOPPER

and OTHER FABLES

A LITTLE BOOK OF FRIENDS

FOUR FRENCH

PEDERSDOTTER

THE MODERN DRAMA

By VIRGINIA ROBIE. An attractive, well-illustrated holiday book for those interested in old furniture, mirrors, glassware, 52 //0 e.

W LLIAM CUSHING BAY

BURGH. A standard and authoritative

textbook on letter writing, sales campaigna handling of mail, filing system, etc.

STATESMEN

ANNE

QUAINT

THE SINS of the

CHILDREN By COSMO HAMILTON. A vital novel of American family life by the author of The Blindness of Virtue. \$1.40 net.

THE KINGDOM of the BLIND

By E. PHILLIPS OPPENHEIM. Depicts the ceaseless struggle of the English ture in the Southwest. An exciting storping war Office against German Secret Service.

\$1.35 net.

CHLOE MALONE

By FANNIE HEASLIP LEA. A charming love story of New Orleans, with a captility vating heroine who wanted to marry a milling ionaire.

By MARGARET SHERWOOD. An American girl opens wide the cloor of her cottage in England to refugees from Bellionaire.

\$1.35 net. BIG TIMBER

By MARY R. S. ANDREWS.

By BERTRAND W. SINCLAIR. The best out-of-doors story he ever wrote.

N. Y. Herald.

By MARY R. S. ANDREWS.

"The greatest story the war has produced." Ludies' Home Journal.
New Illustrated edition. \$1.00 net.

MISS THEODOSIA'S

HEARTSTRINGS

An irresistible novel of happiness, in which a quartette of children reach the heart of a staid and travel-worn woman.

51.00 net.

By ELIZA CALVERT HALL More "Aunt Jane of Kentucky" stories, rich in homely philosophy.

51.25 net.

PETEY SIMMONS AT SIWASH

By GEORGE FITCH. More of those By SEUMAS O'BRIEN. A collection jolly yarns of Siwash College life. \$1.25 net. of delightful Irish sketches.

BIOGRAPHIES

FROM the DEEP WOODS to

CIVILIZATION

By CHARLES A. EASTMAN. Chapters in the autobiography of an Indian. The mephew of Sitting Bull.

Illustrated. \$2.00 net.

By HARRIET PRESCOTT SPOI.

FORD. The private lives and personalities of such famous women as Louise Chandle Moulton. Gail Hamilton. Celia Thater.

Rose Terry Cooke, and others. 57.2) net.

A NEW ENGLAND CHILDHOOD

By MARGARET FULLER. The story of the childhood and youth of Edmund Clarence Stedman, the gifted poet.

81.50 net. The story by WILLIAM M. FULLERTON. Under the labors of those men who shape to the destiny of France to-day.

DRAMA DUTY, and OTHER IRISH COMEDIES

By SEUMAS O'BRIEN. Five one-act comedies, rich in Irish humor and philosophy.

By H. WIERS-JENSSEN. A drama four acts from the Danish.

\$1.00 m THREE PLAYS

By PADRAIC COLUM. Life as it is lived in Ireland:
The Fiddler's House. The Land. Thomas Muskerry.

St. 25 net. language. Send for complete list.

MISCELLANEOUS

THE MOTHERCRAFT THE QUEST of the MANUAL By MARY L. READ. An invaluable

work by the director of the School of Mothercraft, N. Y. \$1.25 net. **HEART SONGS** and HOME SONGS

By DENNIS A. McCARTHY. A new TALKS ON BUSINESS collection of poems, many of them patriotic, by the author of "A Round of Rimes," etc.

THE INTELLIGENCE OF WOMAN

By W. L. GEORGE (Nor. 11.) A remarkable collection of essays on fer

DICTIONARY of SIMILES

\$1.25 net. GAMES and PARTIES for CHILDREN

SIMILES

By FRANK J. WILSTACH (Nor. 11).

The first book of its kind. Similes from every language.

By GRACE LEE DAVISON claime estimated for children of all ages with the merous hints on decorations color schedule etc.

Illustrated. 51 100 ne.

LITTLE, BROWN & CO., Publishers, BOSTON, MASS.

## THE ASHES HEART EDITH BLINN

Three Colored Jacket

10 Illustrations

A powerful love story filled with thrills and fearless in its expose of the describe of evil that is fast fastening its poisonous fance into the tender vivals of the numerical

Y treated the continuous for poisonous tange into the tender treats.

Y treats—"A wild, weird story told with a certain power."

Y treats—"A modern emotional novel with plenty of thems, to the theorems of thems, and the studies of human sees of drugs upon a human being that has been written since the days by a Confessions of an Opium Enter." At your bookseller or postpaid \$1,35.

MARKWELL PUBLISHING COMPANY, 145 West 45th St., New York

## WHEN A MAN'S A MAN The Best Novel Harold Bell Wright Has Yet Written This Story of Manhood Receives

The New York Tirnes says, The author writes of the vigorous outdoor life of the Southwest with knowledge and with graphic truth. The Boston Globe says, It is an enduring sermon in story torm.

The Messenger of the Sacred Heart says, The pretty love story has the charm of being sweet and clean. The Continent, Chicago, says, The nevel is an inspiration. The Lookout says, it is extra fine.

The Fort Smith Tirnes Record says, Though gripped by the story itself the thoughtful reader cannot but wonder how a man may so left bare the deepest, the most sacred passions of the human soul. We often wept as we read the story, but they were tears that soothed and inspired.

Selling Everywhere \$1.35 Publishers, The Book Supply Company, 231-233 W. Monroe St., Chicago

# FONDIE

66 ONDIE" is one of the truest pictures of country life

By EDWARD C. BOOTH

since the earlier novels of George Eliot. A romance of rural England with a masterly blend of comedy and tragedy. "The most attractive novel we have read this year."-London Times. \$1.40 net.

### THE SAILOR

By J. C. Snaith.

Comparing Mr. Snaith to Dickens, Hardy, Stevenson, De Foe and others, the critics have of their own accord discovered "The Sailor" and awarded it preeminence among fiction of the year. It is the story of the development of a London gutter-snipe, first into a sailor and then into a leader of men. "Heartgripping, with the plot of a Dickens and the delicate love-making atmosphere of william Black."-N. Y. Herald. \$1 40 net.

### THE WINGED VICTORY

By Sarah Grand. Not even "The Heavenly Twins" embodies so many of the characteristics of a literary masterpiece as this novel of an English girl whose indomitable spirit carries her from

a lace-maker's shop to the highest position in Society. \$1.50 net. To Be Published Shortly

The FIVE-BARREDGATE By E. Temple Thurston. A bright, amusing story of the obstacles that must be overcome by every married

For Sale at All Booksellers. THESE ARE APPLETON BOOKS APPLETON & COMPANY 35 WEST 32 \*\* STREET NEW YOR

couple. \$1.40 net.

## of a play let the law step in at once, of countless scripts Mr. Woods not only the culprit should be held for observa- entirely agrees with Mr. Brady's diagnon and if seriously afflicted with the nosts, but believes that the latter has playwriting germ should be placed under overlooked several concomitant atlments. playwriting germ should be placed inder treatment. Compulsory attendance at a really good school for teaching the elements of the dramatic art might be wise in certain selected cases. "Possibly there is no line of human endeavor that demands such therough acquaintance with the peruliarities of their melancholy way to the storehouse, and stimular it is belief and deeph. in certain selected cases.

men or women whose experience of life

Speak Pro and Con.

few that reach the boards. They are the work, both those which are rejected and those which are played, of young A. H. Woods Conears. is slender or of elderly writers who have as slonder or of elderly writers who have never grown up mentally.

"If Mr. Brady's contention is well founded there seems to be a short cut to the solution of the difficulty. When- elysts is well founded. After having ever any young person comes under sus- felt the pulse, taken the temperature pictor of being engaged upon the writing and otherwise examined the symptoms of countries sortices. Mr. Woods, William A.

Methods.

## **CATHOLIC BOOKS**

Catholic Books of all Publishers

P. J. Kenedy & Sons, 44 Barclay St. NEW YORK

# Complete Stock of

Write for free Catalogue of KENEDY PUBLICATIONS